

*2 April 2006*  
*Sunday*

## **READINGS**

Psalm 145; Exodus 3:16-4:12; Romans 12:1-12; John 8:46-59

## **DEVOTION**

Becoming a Living Sacrifice. Romans 12:1.

Throughout the Bible we read of sacrifices that were pleasing to God. God does indeed take great pleasure in a worthy sacrifice and in the one who presents it. In the Old Testament, God recorded in great detail the way His people were to present their sacrificial offerings. God called for his people to present the best they had in the form of their sacrifice. The sacrificial animal had to be without physical damage or imperfection. To offer God anything less than the best would be an offense to Him. When an offering was brought to God the offering changed possession; it no longer belonged to the one presenting the sacrifice but belonged solely to God and when this spotless sacrifice was offered it was declared to be “an aroma pleasing to the Lord” (Leviticus 1:13.)

God set forth the standards of a pleasing sacrifice in the Old Testament and in the New Testament we know that God met the standard for sacrifice when He offered His own Son as the spotless lamb on the altar of forgiveness. The only sacrifice worthy enough to atone for the sins of mankind came through the life, death and resurrection of God’s perfect Son.

God also asks us to lay down our lives on His altar, but when we do this we are called to be a living sacrifice belonging to God, not to ourselves. Just like in the Old Testament, our sacrifice is to be complete, and the best we have to offer without damage and blemish, spotless. To give less than a wholehearted sacrifice would be unacceptable to God.

Because of this, if you are a Christian, your life is no longer your own, but instead of requiring death, God asks you to live for Him as a walking breathing living sacrifice. This kind of life sacrifice is to be offered minute by minute and day by day in service to Him. This life sacrifice should be the first and best you have to offer, with your time or gifts, your talents and abilities. The way you live your life is your offering to Him. Make your life a pursuit of holiness so that it is an offering that is spotless and acceptable, “an aroma pleasing to the Lord”.

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